Revision of Royalty

†598* SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in law for the revision of royalty after three years;

(b) if so, when the royalty was fixed payable on coal last time; and

(c) by when his Ministry would review the royalty on coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Section 9 (3) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification in the Official Gazette with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification. However, provisio to Section 9 (3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The Act does not mandate that royalty on coal should be revised after every three years.

The royalty rates on coal were last revised on 16.08.2002 and the next revision can be effected only after 15.08.2005.

Issue of China-Bangladesh Nuclear Ties

*599. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India did not raise the issue of China-Bangladesh nuclear ties with the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during his visit to India, recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.